

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

445 A holding material used for a catalytic converter having
a catalyst carrier shaped like a cylinder, a casing for receiving
the catalyst carrier, and the holding material mounted on the
catalyst carrier and interposed in a gap between the catalyst
carrier and the casing, the holding material including a molding
450 of inorganic fibers shaped like a mat or a cylinder, wherein
at least an exhaust-gas-inlet-side end portion of the holding
material is set to be smaller in basis weight than any other
area of the holding material over a predetermined axial length.